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E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/10/2016
TAGS: [PREL](#) [RP](#)
SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY REQUESTS ASEAN MEETING WITH
SECRETARY CLINTON

REF: MANILA 1397

Classified By: Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

(C) In a meeting with the Ambassador July 10, Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo underscored his keen interest in a bilateral meeting with Secretary Clinton during the upcoming July 22-23 ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) meetings in Phuket, Thailand. Secretary Romulo said he wants to make the most of the Philippines' new role as the ASEAN dialogue partner for the U.S. for the next three years, and believes that a bilateral discussion at the ARF could promote more rapid progress on key issues of concern, including a stronger ASEAN human rights mechanism, pressing for democratic change in Burma, and working to bring North Korea back into international nonproliferation regimes. Secretary Romulo also wanted to brief Secretary Clinton on the Philippine government's efforts to revive peace talks with Muslim and communist insurgents, and discuss our joint counterterrorism efforts in the face of renewed bombings in the southern Philippines.
KENNEY